









FAMILY  
HISTORY  
VARNEY

C19

Collection #:  
M 639  
OM 297

VARNEY-PORTER FAMILIES  
PAPERS, 1756-1939

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Processed by:

Paul Brockman  
7 October 1993

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 11 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize folders  
(3.25 linear feet).

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1756-1939; Bulk, 1808-1922.

PROVENANCE: Barbara A. Walters for the estate of Constance  
Varney Cannon Van Devanter, Rt. 6, Box 668, Burnsville,  
North Carolina 28714, 26 August 1991.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Albert Gallatin Porter Collection (M 396)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 91.0692



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This collection primarily consists of the papers and photographs of several individuals connected with the Varney and Porter families:

Thomas Randolph (1771-1811) was born in Richmond, Virginia, attended William & Mary College, studied law, and came to the Indiana Territory in 1807. Shortly after his arrival, Randolph was appointed Attorney General for the territory by Governor William Henry Harrison. In 1810 he married Catherine Lawrence, a step-daughter of General James Dill. Randolph was the Virginia, or pro-slavery, party's choice for Congress in 1809, but he was defeated by Jonathan Jennings in the election for Territorial Representative by thirty-nine votes. Randolph contested the election, but his appeal was denied by the election committee. Randolph joined Governor Harrison's army as a volunteer aid and was killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Albert Gallatin Porter (1824-1897) was an Indianapolis politician, attorney, and historian. He was a legal partner at various times with David MacDonald, Benjamin Harrison, William P. Fishback, and Cyrus C. Hines. Porter served as Indianapolis city attorney, 1851-1853, reporter for the Indiana Supreme Court, 1853-1856, and member of the Indianapolis City Council, 1857-1859. From 1859-1863 Porter served as a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representative and was the first comptroller for the U.S. Treasury Department, 1878-1880. Porter served as governor of Indiana, 1881-1885, and was the U.S. minister to Italy, 1889-1891. He was also a collector of Indiana historical research materials which he intended to use in writing a history of the state.

Almon Libby Varney (1839-1922) was born in Windham, Maine, served as a lieutenant in ordnance with the 13th Maine Regiment during the Civil War, and married Hannah Josephine Gibson (1843-19 ) of Medford, Massachusetts in 1866. Varney was a career army officer which included serving as commander of the arsenals in Watertown, Massachusetts (1889-1892), Indianapolis (1892-1899), and San Antonio, Texas (1899-1903). Varney attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before his retirement from active service in 1903. The Varneys had two children, Gordon Edward (1867-1931), owner of an electrical engineering business in Indianapolis from 1900-1919, and Theodore (1874-19 ) who also was in the electrical engineering business in Indianapolis. In 1898, Gordon Varney married Katharine Porter, the daughter of Edward Porter ( -1909) and granddaughter of Albert Gallatin Porter. They had three children, Gordon Varney, Jr., Porter Varney, and Josephine Varney Cannon.



Sources:

McDonald, A History of Freemasonry in Indiana, p.44.  
Society of Indiana Pioneers, Yearbook, 1963, pp. 3-18.  
Pumroy & Brockman, Guide to Manuscript Collections, Indiana  
Historical Society and Indiana State Library, pp. 149-150.  
Peat/Ruegamer, Portraits and Painters of the Governors of  
Indiana, p. 52.  
Information in Collection.  
Indiana Biography Series (ISL), v. 3, p. 191.  
Indiana Biography Series (ISL), v. 7, p. 14.



## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers contain the correspondence, legal and legislative documents, historical research, and genealogical information for the Randolph, Porter, and Varney families. Included are the correspondence and legal papers of Thomas Randolph while serving as Attorney General for Indiana Territory. Among the correspondence are three letters to Randolph from Governor William Henry Harrison (1809-1810) regarding legal territorial matters. Also included are legal and legislative documents regarding the Indiana Territory. These contain the court martial proceedings, testimonies, and related materials involving charges against Captain George Floyd by Lieutenant Ambrose Whitlock and by Captain Thornton Posey against Lieutenant Whitlock at Fort Knox II, Knox County, March-May, 1811. There are also letters of General James Dill, a businessman and militia officer from Dearborn County, who adopted Randolph's daughter, Mary, after his death at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Among the Porter family papers are letters to Albert Gallatin Porter from relatives and friends, mostly from 1839-1849, regarding family and personal matters. Among those writing to Porter are his uncle, Omer Tousey, his sister, Anne, his father, Thomas, his brother, A. O., and leading individuals of the period such as Newton Booth and Henry Ward Beecher. There is also correspondence, legal documents, and military appointments regarding Thomas Porter, 1818-1848, correspondence between members of the Porter family, genealogical related research and correspondence regarding Porter and related families. Also included are Columbus, Indiana, land and election records, 1821-1848, and general correspondence and related materials regarding other members of the Porter family.

Varney family papers include personal and military correspondence of Lieutenant Colonel A. L. Varney, 1861-1922. There are also family letters to Mrs. A. L. Varney, 1895-1908, and personal letters to the Varney's children and grandchildren. Most prominent in number of letters are those of Gordon E. Varney and his wife, Katharine Porter Varney. Topics in these letters include general family information and various other subjects of the times. Also included are papers and information related to Katharine Varney's participation in the Indianapolis Woman's Club. There is also numerous letters regarding Varney and Porter family histories. The Varney papers also include Colonel Varney's travel journals abroad, 1905-1906, and his genealogical notebooks and research information. There is also a significant number of photographs from the 1850s to the 1940s representing several photographic processes. Subjects of the images include members of the Porter and Varney families, their residences including A. G. Porter's house in Indianapolis and the George and Katharine Varney home



in Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, and their recreational activities such as vacations overseas, Mexico, and the east coast of the United States.

The papers also include historical research collected by General W. H. H., Terrell for a proposed history of Indiana. Materials include mainly clippings and handwritten notes about important individuals, places, and events in Indiana history.



## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### BOX 1: Randolph and Dill Papers, 1800-1828

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, 1808-1809
2	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, April, 1810-October, 1810
3	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, November, 1810-December, 1810
4	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, January, 1811-April, 1811
5	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, July, 1811-1813
6	Randolph and Dill Correspondence, 1816-1828
7	Randolph, Legal and Legislative Documents, Indiana Territory, 1800-1809
8	Randolph, Legal and Legislative Documents, Indiana Territory, 1810-1811
9	Court Martial Proceedings, March, 1811-May, 1811, folder 1
10	Court Martial Proceedings, March, 1811-May, 1811, folder 2
11	Court Martial Proceedings, March, 1811-May, 1811, folder 3
12	Pigeon Roost Massacre Letters, 1812

### BOX 2: Porter Family Papers, 1756-1834

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Non-Indiana Legal Documents, 1756-1796
2	Thomas Porter Correspondence and Papers, 1814-1848
3	Albert Gallatin Porter Correspondence, 1839-May, 1846
4	Albert Gallatin Porter Correspondence, June, 1846-March, 1847
5	Albert Gallatin Porter Correspondence and Papers, May, 1847-1894
6	Columbus, Indiana, Land and Election Records, 1821-1848
7	Porter Family Correspondence, 1860-1890
8	Porter Family, General Correspondence and Related Materials, 1860-1909
9	Porter and Related Families, Genealogical Correspondence, 1876-1934
10	Porter and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 1
11	Porter and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 2



BOX 2 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
12	Porter and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 3
13	Porter and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 4
14	Porter and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 5

BOX 3: Varney Papers, 1862-1922

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	A. L. Varney Papers, 1862-1886
2	A. L. Varney Papers, 1890-1893
3	A. L. Varney Papers, 1894-1897
4	A. L. Varney Papers, 1898-1900
5	A. L. Varney Papers, 1901-1902
6	A. L. Varney Papers, 1903-1914
7	A. L. Varney Papers, 1917-1918
8	A. L. Varney Papers, 1919-1920
9	A. L. Varney Papers, April, 1921-September, 1921
10	A. L. Varney Papers, October, 1921-October, 1922
11	A. L. Varney Papers, n.d.
12	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, 1895-1900
13	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, January, 1900-July, 1900
14	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, August, 1900-December, 1900
15	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, 1901
16	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, 1902-1908
17	Mrs. A. L. Varney Letters, n.d.

BOX 4: Varney Family Papers, 1861-1939

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Gordon and Katharine Porter Varney Papers, 1875-1910
2	Gordon and Katharine Porter Varney Papers, 1911-1919
3	Gordon and Katharine Porter Varney Papers, 1920-September, 1921
4	Katharine Porter Varney Papers, October, 1921-January, 1922



BOX 4 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
5	Gordon and Katharine Porter Varney Papers, February, 1922-1924
6	Katharine Porter Varney Papers, 1925-1930
7	Katharine Porter Varney Papers, 1931-1935 & n.d.
8	Varney Family Correspondence and Papers, 1861-1880
9	Varney Family Correspondence and Papers, 1892-1901
10	Varney Family Correspondence and Papers, 1905-1912
11	Varney Family Correspondence and Papers, 1939 & n.d.
12	Varney and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 1
13	Varney and Related Families Genealogical Information, folder 2
14	Varney Family History, n.d.

BOX 5: Research and Scrapbooks, 1880s-1920s

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	A. L. Varney Scrapbook, 1880s-1920s
2	<u>Tousey Family in America</u> , 1916
3	A. L. Varney Genealogical Research Book, n.d.
4	Katharine Porter Varney, Indianapolis Woman's Club Papers, n.d., folder 1
5	Katharine Porter Varney, Indianapolis Woman's Club Papers, n.d., folder 2
6	Katharine Porter Varney, Indianapolis Woman's Club Papers, n.d., folder 3

BOX 6: A. L. Varney Travel Journals, 1905-1906; School Assignments, n.d.

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	A. L. Varney Travel Journals, 1905-1906
2	A. L. Varney Travel Journals, 1906
3	School Assignments, n.d.
4	School Assignments, n.d.



BOX 7: W. H. H. Terrell Historical Research, 1876-1884

FOLDER

CONTENTS

1	Terrell, Historical Research, Col. John Baird, 1881
2	Terrell, Historical Research, Gen. James Slack, 1881
3	Terrell, Historical Research, William Hendricks, 1881
4	Terrell, Historical Research, Capt. G. W. Cutter, 1882
5	Terrell, Historical Research, Daniel Royse, 1881
6	Terrell, Historical Research, Benjamin Parke, 1882
7	Terrell, Historical Research, William W. Dudley, 1882
8	Terrell, Historical Research, Tilghman Howard, 1876
9	Terrell, Historical Research, James F. D. Lanier
10	Terrell, Historical Research, Col. Cyrus Allen, 1883
11	Terrell, Historical Research, Dr. Issac T. Cauby, n.d.
12	Terrell, Historical Research, Shakers, 1879
13	Terrell, Historical Research, Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, Judge H. W. Harrington, James W. Borden, 1882
14	Terrell, Historical Research, Solomon Meredith, 1875 & 1882
15	Terrell, Historical Research, Robert Hudson, n.d.
16	Terrell, Historical Research, Evansville, 1881
17	Terrell, Historical Research, Jeffersonville & New Albany, 1879
18	Terrell, Historical Research, Gov. Abram Hammond, 1883
19	Terrell, Historical Research, James M. Ray, 1881
20	Terrell, Historical Research, Col. W. W. Dudley, 1882
21	Terrell, Historical Research, Gen. Joseph Bartholomew, n.d.
22	Terrell, Historical Research, Conrad Baker, n.d.
23	Terrell, Historical Research, Quaker Mission on the Wabash, n.d.
24	Terrell, Historical Research, Ovid Butler, 1882
25	Terrell, Historical Research, Rush County, 1884



BOX 7 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
26	Terrell, Historical Research, Lake County, n.d.
27	Terrell, Historical Research, Early Navigation on the Ohio River, 1877
28	Terrell, Historical Research, Steamboats in the West, 1880
29	Terrell, Historical Research, Capt. John Crandon, 1879
30	Terrell, Historical Research, Evansville, 1880
31	Terrell, Historical Research, Richmond, In, 1877
32	Terrell, Historical Research, U. S. Mail in Indianapolis, 1881
33	Terrell, Historical Research, Wabash & Erie Canal, n.d.

BOX 8: W. H. H. Terrell, Historical Research, 1859-1882

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Terrell, Historical Research, Jesse D. Bright, 1881
2	Terrell, Historical Research, Calvin Fletcher, 1882
3	Terrell, Historical Research, Rev. Eli P. Farmer, 1881
4	Terrell, Historical Research, Isaac Blackford, 1859-1882
5	Terrell, Historical Research, Battle of Tippecanoe, 1880
6	Terrell, Historical Research, John Tipton, 1879
7	Terrell, Historical Research, Williamson Dunn, 1882
8	Terrell, Historical Research, Col. John Armstrong, n.d.
9	Terrell, Historical Research, Hamilton County, In, 1874
10	Terrell, Historical Research, Courts, Legal Anecdotes, n.d., folder 1
11	Terrell, Historical Research, Courts, Legal Anecdotes, n.d., folder 2
12	Terrell, Historical Research, Benjamin Harrison, 1880
13	Terrell, Historical Research, Capture of Vincennes, 1879
14	Terrell, Historical Research, Indians (Miamis), 1881



BOX 8 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
15	Terrell, Historical Research, Generals Bartholomew, Tipton, & Col. R. M. Evans, n.d.
16	Terrell, Historical Research, John Widener, 1882
17	Terrell, Historical Research, Brass Bands, n.d.
18	Terrell, Historical Research, D. C. Branham, 1877
19	Terrell, Historical Research, Madison, In, 1879
20	Terrell, Historical Research, Black Hawk War in Indiana, 1879 & n.d.
21	Terrell, Historical Research, Gov. James Williams, 1880
22	Terrell, Historical Research, Thomas A. Hendricks, 1875-1876
23	Terrell, Historical Research, Lodges & Secret Societies, n.d.

BOX 9: W. H. H. Terrell, Historical Research, 1858-1885

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Terrell, Historical Research, Correspondence, 1875-1879
2	Terrell, Historical Research, O. P. Grover, n.d.
3	Terrell, Historical Research, Bartholomew Co. Newspapers, n.d.
4	Terrell, Research Notes on Bartholomew Co. Press, n.d.
5	Terrell, Historical Research, Bartholomew Co. Newspapers, 1875
6	Terrell, Historical Research, Newspapers and Other Topics, n.d.
7	Terrell, Historical Research, Gander Pulling, n.d.
8	Terrell, Historical Research, Mooresville--Old Settlers, 1879
9	Terrell, Historical Research, Marion Co.--Old Settlers, 1858
10	Terrell, Historical Research, Howard Co.--Old Settlers, 1875
11	Terrell, Historical Research, Marion & Johnson Counties--Old Settlers, 1879
12	Terrell, Historical Research, Danville--Old Settlers, 1882



BOX 9 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
13	Terrell, Historical Research, Henry Co.--Old Settlers, 1885
14	Terrell, Historical Research, Brown Co.--Old Settlers, 1878
15	Terrell, Historical Research, Noble Co.--Old Settlers, 1882
16	Terrell, Historical Research, Evansville, 1883
17	Terrell, Historical Research, Mooresville--Old Settlers, 1882
18	Terrell, Historical Research, DeKalb Co.--Old Settlers, 1882
19	Terrell, Historical Research, New Albany and Floyd Co., 1877
20	Terrell, Historical Research, Decatur Co., n.d.
21	Terrell, Historical Research, Terre Haute, 1876
22	Terrell, Historical Research, Republican Party Office Holders, n.d.

BOX 10: Porter & Varney Family Photographs (stored in Visual Collections)

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Albert G. Porter
2	Porter Family, folder 1
3	Porter Family, folder 2
4	Porter Family, folder 3
5	Porter Related Portraits
6	Katharine Porter Varney, folder 1
7	Katharine Porter Varney, folder 2
8	A. L. Varney, folder 1
9	A. L. Varney, folder 2
10	Mrs. A. L. Varney, folder 1
11	Mrs. A. L. Varney, folder 2
12	Mrs. A. L. Varney, folder 3
13	Early Varney Family, folder 1
14	Early Varney Family, folder 2

BOX 11: Porter & Varney Family Photographs (stored in Visual Collections)

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Gordon Varney, Sr., folder 1
2	Gordon Varney, Sr., folder 2
3	Gordon Varney, Sr., folder 3



BOX 11 (Continued):

FOLDER	CONTENTS
4	Gordon Varney, Sr., folder 4
5	Gordon Varney, Sr., folder 5
6	Gordon Varney/Katharine Porter Varney Family
7	Josephine Varney and Family, folder 1
8	Josephine Varney and Family, folder 2
9	Residences--Varney and Porter Families
10	Varney Travel Photographs (snapshots), folder 1
11	Varney Travel Photographs (snapshots), folder 2
12	Varney Travel Photographs (Album Pages)
13	Varney Travel Photographs (E. B. Waite Views of Mexico)



## CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Varney, A. L. (Almon Libby), 1839-1922

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Varney, A. L. (Almon Libby), 1839-1922  
Varney, Gordon E. (Gordon Edward), 1867-1931  
Varney, Katharine Porter, fl. 1870s-1930s  
Porter, Albert G. (Albert Gallatin), 1824-1897  
Randolph, Thomas, 1771-1811  
Harrison, William Henry, 1773-1841  
Dill, James, 1772-1838  
Booth, Newton, 1825-1892  
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887  
Terrell, William Henry Harrison, 1827-1884  
Varney family  
Porter family  
Randolph family  
Indianapolis Woman's Club  
Family records  
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry--Indiana--Knox  
County  
Elections--Indiana--Columbus  
Local elections--Indiana--Columbus  
Real property--Indiana--Columbus  
Travelers--Mexico  
Travelers--Africa  
Travelers--Europe  
Voyages and travels  
School notebooks  
Women--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies and clubs  
Indiana--History  
Indiana--Politics and government  
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